

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OMB-01 GAC-01 RSR-01

(ADP) W

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O 210803 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8893

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, BG

SUBJ: PAKISTAN' S REPLY TO INDO- BANGLADESH DECLARATION

REF: ISLAMABAD 3173 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. GOP STATEMENT IN RESPONE INDO- BANGLADESH APRIL 17
DECLARATION DENIES INDIA' S RIGHT TO IMPOSE CONDITIONS
ON RETURN OF PGWS; DENOUNCES BANGLADESH WAR CRIMES
TRIALS; THREATENS RETALIATORY TRIALS OF RESIDENT
BENGALIS; AND CALLS UPON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO
PREVENT DACCA FROM EXPELLING BIHARIS. GOP DOES FEEL,
HOWEVER, THAT APRIL 17 INDO- BANGLADESH DECLARATION
IS RESPONSIVE TO GOP REQUEST FOR FURTHER INDO- PAK
DIALOGUE AND INVITES INDIAN REPS TO ISLAMABAD " FOR
DISCUSSIONS AND ALSO TO EXPLORE FURTHER POSSIBILITIES
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT".
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END SUMMARY.

1. GOP AFTERNOON APRIL 20 ISSUED FORMAL STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO INDO- BANGLADESH JOINT DECLARATION OF APRIL 17 (NEW DELHI 4508). STATEMENT CAME AT CONCLUSION THREE DAYS INTENSE HIGH- LEVEL CONSULTATION INVOLVING BHUTTO, HIS ADVISORS, CABINET, MILITARY HIGH COMMAND AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP.

2. STATEMENT REINTERATES GOP RESOLVE ADHERE TO LETTER AND SPIRIT SIMLA AGREEMENT. IT CHARGES INDIA WITH OBSTRUCTING " NORMALIZATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE SUB- CONTINENT" BY ILLEGALLY DETAINING PAK POWS IN VIOLATION GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND " NOTES WITH CONCERN" THAT APRIL 17 DECLARATION INVITES PAKISTAN TO ACQUIESCE IN THIS VIOLATION BY AGREEING TO CONDITIONS FOR RETURN OF POWS.

3. STATEMENT DENIES GBD RIGHT TO HOLD WAR CRIMES TRIALS OF PAK POWS, ASSERTING THAT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW ONLY PAKISTAN HAS THAT RIGHT. IF GBD PERSISTS WITH TRIALS, IT WILL POISON ATMOSPHERE AND " SERIOUSLY RETARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THAT CLIMATE OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION WHICH IS A DIRE NECESSITY" FOR SUB- CONTIENT. STATEMENT DECLARES THAT GOP HAS " EXERCISED MAXIMUM RESTRAINT" IN REFRAINING FROM PUTTING BENGALIS IN PAKISTAN ON TRIAL FOR SUBVERSION, ESPIONAGE AND TREASON, AND WARNS THAT TRIALS IN BANGLADESH " WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THIS RESTRAINT TO CONTINUE". (HEADLINE ARTICLE IN APRIL 21 GOVERN- MENT- CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES, REPORTING GOP STATE- MENT, ADDS THAT NUMBER OF BENGALIS " KNOWN TO HAVE COMMITTED ACTS OF TREASON" AND THUS SUITABLE FOR TRIAL IS " WELL OVER 1000".)

4. STATEMENT DECLARES THAT GOP IS FULLY PREPARED COOPERATE IN ARRANGING DEPARTURE OF ALL BENGALIS WHO WISH LEAVE PAKISTAN. WITH REGARD BIHARIS, STATEMENT DENOUNCES " UNIQUE DOCTRINE" THAT BANGLADESH MAY ARBITRARILY EXPELL ETHNIC MINORITY AND HOLD PAKISTAN LIABLE TO RECEIVE THEM. IT CALLS ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO " PERSUADE THE AUTHORITIES

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IN DACCA " TO PROTECT BASIC RIGHTS OF " THESE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE".

5. NOTWITHSTANDING DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN DELHI DECLARATION, STATEMENT CONTINUES, GOP FEELS IT DOES CONSTITUTE RESPONSE TO PAK URGINGS FOR FURTHER DIALOGUE. IN ORDER OBTAIN " THE NECESSARY CLARIFICATIONS OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE STATEMENT", GOP " HAS DECIDED TO INVITE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO ISLAMABAD FOR DISCUSSIONS AND ALSO TO EXPLORE FURTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATIONS OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT".

6. COMMENT: DESPITE SOME HINTS TO MEDIA THAT GOI AND GBD WANT APRIL 17 PROPOSALS TO BE CONSIDERED ON TAKE- IT- OR- LEAVE- IT BASIS, GOP HAS CHOSEN REGARD THEM AS BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND HAS INVITED GOI JOIN IT FOR TALKS. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS IS PROBABLY MOST POSITIVE RESPONSE THAT COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED.

7. FULL TEXT BEING SENT SEPTTEL.
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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